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scriptions are quite inadequate, and the specimens will have to be more fully described before their characters can be sufficiently known.

The third volume is chiefly occupied with the Edentata, and this memoir is admirably illustrated. The descriptions (by Dr. Lydekker) are rather more full than those of Vol. II, but not full enough. They are marred by frequent supercilious references to Dr. Florentino Ameghino, who is the most competent paleontologist of the vertebrata in South America, and whose descriptions compare very favorably with those of other paleontologists in all respects. His figures are not so good as those of the work now under review, for here we have a case in which the most skilful hand has not had the financial advantages it ought to have had. From our past experience we should say that when Dr. Lydekker states that organic forms are distinct species he is apt to be correct; but when he identifies forms alleged to be distinct, further examination is in order.—C.

## BOTANY.<sup>1</sup>

**Tilden's American Algæ.**—The first century of this distribution by Josephine Tilden, of Minneapolis, was sent out about a year ago, but has not hitherto been noticed in these pages. The specimens are very neatly prepared, and are attached to cards or mica slips. In most cases they contain an abundance of material, but, in a few instances, we might wish for more generous specimens. The species represent the following genera:

*Oedogonium* (4), *Sphaeroplea* (1), *Hormiscia* (2), *Chaetophora* (4), *Draparnaudia* (3), *Stigeoclonium* (6), *Conferva* (1), *Microspora* (1), *Urospora* (1), *Cladophora* (15), *Pithophora* (1), *Vaucheria* (5), *Botrydium* (1), *Hydrodictyon* (1), *Tetraspora* (2), *Palmella* (1), *Protococcus* (3), *Euglena* (1), *Spirogyra* (10), *Cosmarium* (1), *Porphyrosiphon* (1), *Symploca* (2), *Lyngbya* (2), *Phormidium* (1), *Oscillatoria* (8), *Spirulina* (1), *Gloeotrichia* (2), *Tolypothrix* (1), *Nostoc* (3), *Anabaena* (2), *Merismopedia* (1), *Navicula* (1), *Pleurosigma* (1), *Gomphonema* (2), *Cocconeis* (1), *Nitzschia* (1), *Odontidium* (1), *Synedra* (2), *Fragilaria* (1), *Cystopleura* (1), *Lysigonium* (1).

The introduction of *Euglena* among plants is, in our opinion, a mistake, although one which will probably do no harm, since it will be difficult if not impossible to recognize them from dried specimens.

<sup>1</sup> Edited by Prof. C. E. Bessey, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Century II is announced to appear soon. We bespeak for it a liberal patronage.—CHARLES E. BESSEY.

**The Columbines of North America.**—Thirteen species of *Aquilegia* are described as occurring in North America in Robinson's edition of Gray's Synoptical Flora (1895).

These fall into two types, as follows:

A. Old World type, with hooked or curved spurs:

*A. brevistyla*, Rocky Mountains of British America, and the Black Hills of South Dakota.

*A. saximontana*, Rocky Mountains of Colorado.

*A. flavescens*, Pembina and British Columbia to Oregon and Utah.

*A. micrantha*, southeast Utah.

*A. ecalcatata*, southwest Colorado.

*A. jonesii*, northwest Wyoming and Montana.

B. American type, with straight spurs:

*A. canadensis*, common east of the Rocky Mountains.

*A. formosa*, Alaska to northern California, Idaho and Utah.

*A. truncata*, California.

*A. caerulea*, Rocky Mountains from Montana to New Mexico.

*A. chrysantha*, southern Colorado to New Mexico and Arizona.

*A. pubescens*, California.

*A. longissima* southwest Texas.

It is interesting to note that in Torrey and Gray's Flora of North America (1840) there were but four species described, viz.: *A. canadensis*, *A. formosa*, *A. caerulea* and *A. brevistyla*. It is possible that some of these species may be reduced to varieties upon a more critical study of the genus, but even with the most rigid reduction we should still be left with a large representation of these interesting plants. Their curious beauty and comeliness, with their general distribution, may well warrant the suggestion which has been made to make the Columbine our national flower.—CHARLES E. BESSEY.

**Sets of North American Plants.**—Two sets of peculiarly interesting North American flowering plants attract the attention of herbarium curators at this time. They consist very largely of species from Florida, that wonderfully rich semi-tropical region whose botanical treasures we are just learning to appreciate. The first is a set of 400 specimens by the veteran collector A. H. Curtiss, of Jacksonville, Florida. A personal examination of the specimens warrants the same high commendation which all of Mr. Curtiss's work has hitherto received.

The second set is published by G. V. Nash, of Washington, D. C., and includes the same number of specimens. A glance at the list shows it to include many rare and a considerable number of new species. Either set would be a valuable acquisition to any college herbarium.—CHARLES E. BESSEY.

**Botany in Buffalo.**—The Secretary of the Section of Botany (G) of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Professor George F. Atkinson, of Ithaca, N. Y., is making an effort to provide a good programme for the meeting in August (24 to 28). Titles and abstracts of papers are to be sent to the Secretary not later than July 1, in order that they may be arranged and forwarded to the Permanent Secretary of the Association for printing and distribution. It is the purpose of the Association to issue such a list of Section programmes not less than a month preceding the meeting. Let every botanist who has something of importance send in his title *and abstract* on or before the first day of July.

The second annual meeting of the Botanical Society of America which will be held on August 21 and 22, in connection with the Association, should attract a good number of the more advanced men in the science. Dr. Trelease, the retiring president, will deliver his address on "Botanical Opportunity" at 8 P. M. of the 21st. On the 22d there will be forenoon and afternoon sessions for the reading of papers and discussions.—CHARLES E. BESSEY.

**Blanks for "Plant Analysis."**—For some time there has been an encouraging decrease in the annual crop of blanks for "plant analysis," and we hoped to be able soon to announce the complete extinction of the species. It appears, however, that there are certain intellectual soils in which they still thrive, in spite of the fact that, like the Russian Thistle, they are outlawed in most communities. We have before us two which bear the date 1896, one from U. O. Cox, of Mankato, Minnesota, and the other from H. J. Harnly, of McPherson, Kansas. If one may distinguish between things which are necessarily bad, it may be said that the first is the better of the two. Its fault (which is fatal) is that it enables the pupil to "analyze" a plant with the least possible thinking: he does not have to remember anything; he merely reads the question, looks at his plant, and makes his entry on the proper line. The second blank (which is "copyrighted") adds to the foregoing much which is confusing and scientifically vicious. Thus the pupil finds the questions "Flowers, Regular or Irregular? Why?" which he is expected to answer in a line just *two and a half inches long!*

Again he is asked, "Flowers, Complete or Incomplete? Why?" and is allowed a line exactly two inches long in which to give an answer to a question before which the wisest botanist may well quail. When will teachers realize that botanists are not made by the use of such "helps" any more than Latin scholars are made by the use of "ponies"?

—CHARLES E. BESSEY.

**Botanical News.**—The Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden at St. Louis calls attention in a printed circular to the advantages for study afforded by this important institution. Its herbarium includes nearly 250,000 specimens, and its library about 10,000 volumes and 11,000 pamphlets.

A. H. Curtiss, of Jacksonville, Florida, is distributing fine sets of the Marine Algæ of Florida. Each set contains fifty species and is sold for five dollars.

Professor Bruce Fink, of Fayette, Iowa, offers sets of Iowa Lichens, including about 200 species which he sells at the low price of six cents each.

We are glad to see another number of *Pittonia*, the very useful periodical which Professor E. L. Greene issues from time to time. The new part (13) contains papers on the Nomenclature of the Fuller's Teasel, a Proposed New Genus of Cruciferae; New or Noteworthy Species; New Genus of Polemonianae, and New Mexican Eupatoriaceæ—CHARLES E. BESSEY.

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## ZOOLOGY.

**Japanese Leeches.**—The discovery of three new land leeches in Japan is of interest to geologists since but one species, *Haemadipsa japonica* Whitman, is all that has been known to occur in that country. The three new species are members of a genus separated from all the genera of land leeches hitherto defined. An account of their external characters and a general outline of their internal organization are presented by Dr. Asajiro Oka in a recent number of the journal published by the Imperial University of Japan. For the new genus the author proposes the name *Orobdeella*. The species of this genus are found in various mountainous parts of Japan, crawling under moss and fallen leaves, or in moist earth, in the same manner as earthworms, which con-